



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/596,224	06/14/2000	Derek Chung	URBAP002	1788

22434 7590 01/30/2004
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP
P.O. BOX 778
BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAO H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2173

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/596,224

Applicant(s)

Chung

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 14, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 1 of the Specification the serial number of Application should be provided. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyashita et al. (US Patent No. 6,057,856).

Regarding claim 1, Miyashita discloses A computer network user interface, comprising a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another (see col. 5, lines 19-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67); and graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment (see col. 10, lines 24-67); wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies (see col. 11, lines 9-54).

Art Unit: 2173

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Miyashita discloses wherein users interact with each other by chatting; and wherein text messages are displayed in 10 the proximity of the user generating the message (see col. 28, lines 1-19).

Regarding claims 4 and 5, Miyashita discloses wherein all users within a neighborhood of the user generating a message view the message text; and wherein the message is displayed in comprehensible text only designated users (see col. 27-28, lines 1-67).

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Miyashita discloses wherein the message is displayed to non designated users as nonsense text; and wherein text messages are displayed for a duration of time before being displayed in a scrolling transcription of conversations between users (see col. 29, lines 1-67).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Miyashita discloses wherein users interact with one another in accordance with user character traits assigned to the proxies representing each user; and wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format (see col. 31, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 10, Miyashita discloses wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space (see figure 29).

Art Unit: 2173

Regarding claim 11, Miyashita discloses comprising one or more network servers each comprising a processor and a memory; one or more network clients connected with the network servers each comprising, a processor, memory, a display, and a network connector; and a network user interface, comprising, a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another; and graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment; wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies (see col. 8, lines 5-55 and figures 18-20).

Regarding claims 12 and 13, Miyashita discloses wherein said network browsing environment; comprises a shared multiple browser format; and wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space (see col. 14-15, lines 1-67).

Regarding claims 14-16, Miyashita discloses wherein said landscape sheet is divided into sections at regular intervals, said section comprising virtual rooms for chatting; and wherein an area of interest around each particular user is defined and the intersection of the area of interest around each user and the sections defines the chat rooms in which the user is present (see col. 28, lines 9-52 and figures 1-4).

As claims 17-31 are analyzed as previously discussed with respected claims 1-16 above.

Art Unit: 2173

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (See PTO-892).

Response

5. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 308-9051 may be used for formal communications or (703) 305-9724 for informal or draft communications.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquires

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Application/Control Number: 09/596,224

Page 6

Art Unit: 2173

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca, can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax number for this group is (703) 308-6606.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Nguyen', is written over the printed name and title.

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

January 24, 2004